

FLIGHT JACKET

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August 20, 2004

GPS-guided cargo touches down in Iraq

Story by Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon

1st FSSG Combat Correspondent

CAMP KOREAN VILLAGE, Iraq — Steering themselves from nearly two miles high to within less than 200 meters of their target, the Marine Corps' two newest skydivers made their first combat zone landing Aug. 9 near here.

The jumpers, however, are machines. Smart machines.

Programmed with the drop zone's coordinates, guided by the Global Positioning System, and maneuvered by motor-tugged lines, the Sherpa units each sat atop a pallet of rations for Marines, riding them to Earth and ushering in the future of cargo delivery by air.

The owner of the new Sherpa is the 1st Air Delivery Platoon, Combat Service Support Battalion 7, 1st Force Service Support Group, which delivers supplies to Marine units throughout the vast western portion of Iraq's Al Anbar Province.

GPS-guided parachutes like the Sherpa eliminate numerous disadvantages of air dropping supplies to far-flung troops, said Army Capt. Art

Pack, 37, combat developer with the Army's Combined Arms Support Command in Fort Lee, Va.

The Sherpa uses a rectangular, 900-square-foot parachute, which can be steered, vice a classic round chute. It also incorporates a small drogue parachute to help stabilize the cargo pallet, keeping it facing upward so the main chute opens properly after freefalling.

"It's basically your standard freefall rig, just super-sized," said Pack, a native of Winter Haven, Fla.

While in flight, the Sherpa constantly checks its position using a GPS receiver, and makes flight adjustments as necessary, pulling on two steering lines to turn the parachute.

Before any mission, the aircraft's altitude and speed, the cargo's weight, the drop zone location and wind speeds for various heights must be programmed into the Sherpa's control unit so it can calculate a flight plan, said Gunnery Sgt. Lorrin K. Bush, 35, head of the air delivery platoon. It can even be programmed to maneuver around obstacles or locations where enemy forces are located.

In response, the Sherpa calculates

the precise point in the sky where the cargo must be dropped. As a result, the riggers are taking on more responsibility since they can now plan part of the flight's path. Previously, this task fell upon the plane's navigator.

"We give them the mission and say, 'Fly this,'" Bush said. "They're not used to hearing that from us."

Currently, cargo is dropped via "dumb" parachutes, which have varying accuracy depending on the altitude of the aircraft and wind conditions during the drop, said Pack. Low-altitude drops, classified as anything under 2,000 feet, are fairly accurate, but put the plane and its crew in range of crippling enemy fire.

"The GPS-guided chute gives us more flexibility dropping the load," said Edmonds, Wash., native Capt. Robert D. Hornick, 28, a KC-130 cargo plane co-pilot from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, the unit that flew the mission. "We just get close to the 'DZ' and drop it and it does the rest."

A week prior to the Sherpa's debut, a KC-130 dropped a load of ra-

See DROP, page 4



Cpl. Amanda J. Ruhsam, a parachute rigger from 1st Air Delivery Platoon, spreads out the canopy of a Sherpa precision cargo parachute system at Camp Al Asad, Iraq, Aug. 10 in order to repack it for its next mission. Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon

Iraqi leaders speak to troops during historical event



Iraq's Minister of Defense Hazem Sha'alan speaks to members of Iraq's Security Forces during a visit to a base near An Najaf, Iraq, Aug. 16. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Chago Zapata

Story by Gunnery Sgt. Chago Zapata

11th MEU Combat Correspondent

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DUKE, Iraq — Iraq's Minister of Defense Hazem Sha'alan and a Minister of State Kasim Daoud spoke to members of Iraq's security forces during a visit to the base here Tuesday.

The visit marked a historical, first-ever meeting with these specific units for both members of Iraq's interim government.

They used this opportunity to talk to the soldiers and inspire them to continue their dedicated service to the country of Iraq.

Also present were Col. Anthony M. Haslam, commanding officer, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), and Brig. Gen. Dennis J. Hejlick, deputy commanding general, I

Marine Expeditionary Force.

This is just one example of the new government's climate; its leaders took the time to explain the current situation and why their soldiers' service was important. (Both ministers fielded questions from the soldiers and gave them straightforward answers.)

"Sadr and his militia are bad people and do not represent the views of Iraq or Islam," Sha'alan said when a soldier asked about the Muqtada Militia. "I ask you to help out our country and get Sadr's militia out."

Both ministers asked the soldiers to continue to help their country and wished them good luck on future missions, should clearing operations resume in the city.

"We're here to help you and support you in everything you do," concluded Sha'alan.

Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



73°/60°
Today



73°/59°
Saturday



72°/60°
Sunday

Marine
reflects on
adventurous
career
Page 8



3rd MAW
Marines get
flexible
weapon
Page 9



Rumsfeld: troop moves won't degrade deterrence

Story by Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Any U.S. troop realignments in South Korea won't degrade the deterrence capability against possible aggression by North Korea, DoD's senior civilian told a noted journalist Aug. 17.

The United States – in consultation with its allies – has worked the past three years in developing plans to realign its global military presence in Europe and Asia, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told PBS television news host Jim Lehrer.

Rumsfeld also addressed critics of the decision to move U.S. troops stationed in South Korea away from the demilitarized zone and out of the capital city of Seoul to locations further south. "We obviously wouldn't have done it if there were any risk of a weakening in the deterrent up there," he said.

The long-range goal, the secretary noted, is to "transfer over time, carefully in a measured way, responsibilities to the South Korean military."

Rumsfeld suggested the South Koreans are almost ready to provide the majority of their national security, noting they "have an enormous military" and a robust economy.

North Korean forces invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950. The U.S. and the United Nations sent troops to assist the South Koreans. Later, China came into the conflict on the side of the North Koreans, who were also receiving support from the Soviet Union. The end of the 1950-53 Korean War left the peninsula with a shaky truce between the communist north and democratic south.

It's been 50 years since the end of the war, Rumsfeld observed, noting 21st century military technology enables the U.S. military to do more to support South Korea with fewer troops.

Consequently, he reiterated, "there won't be any weakening of the deterrent" in South Korea, "because I happen to know for a fact that the capability of the United States will be in fact as strong or stronger" after the troop moves.

Rumsfeld said China, Russia, Japan, and South Korea — as well as the United States — are involved in talks with North Korea as part of efforts to persuade it to jettison its suspected nuclear weapons program.

North Korea could be bluffing about having nukes, Rumsfeld noted. But he pointed out that the North Korean government has been "clearly announcing that they are interested in having nuclear weapons and may have nuclear weapons."

Bush announces posture changes

Story by John D. Banusiewicz

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The United States will redistribute forces now stationed at overseas locations "where the wars of the last century ended," President Bush announced in Cincinnati Tuesday.

The president's announcement came during an address to the national convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"The world has changed a great deal," Bush said, "and our posture must change with it for the sake of our military families, for the sake of our taxpayers and so we can be more effective at projecting our strength and spreading freedom and peace."

America's current force posture in Europe, Bush explained, was designed to guard against Soviet aggression. "The threat no longer exists," he said.

The decision to redistribute forces comes after three years of study and consultations, Bush said.

"We've consulted closely with our allies and with Congress. We've examined the challenges posed by today's threats and emerging threats." The result, he said, will be "a more agile and flexible force."

In the next 10 years, Bush said, more U.S.

troops will be stationed at, and deployed from, home bases in the United States.

"We'll move some of our troops and capabilities to new locations so they can surge quickly to deal with unexpected threats," Bush said. "We'll take advantage of 21st century military technology to rapidly deploy increased combat power."

The new plan, the president said, will strengthen U.S. alliances and build new partnerships around the world, and will reduce stress on military people and their families.

"Although we'll still have a significant presence overseas, under the plan I'm announcing today, over the next 10 years we will bring home about 60,000 to 70,000 uniformed personnel and about 100,000 family members and civilian employees."

This, he explained, would give servicemembers more time on the home front, as well as more predictability and fewer moves over a career.

"Our military spouses will have fewer job changes, greater stability, more time for their kids and to spend time with their families at home," he added.

Taxpayers will benefit from cost savings realized by closing obsolete overseas bases and facilities, the president said.



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MIRAMARKS

"What do you think about the presidents decision to pull U.S. forces out of Europe?"



PFC. WILLIAM EDMUNDS
IMRL Asset Manager
MALS-11

"It would be a good idea to replace our forces in Europe with fresh troops to help boost morale."

CPL. LOUIS OLIVERI
Communication Technician
H&HS

"I think we should bring our forces there back home or rotate them with forces in Iraq to give others a rest."



LANCE CPL. EUGENE BALDERAS
Heavy Equipment Operator
MWSS-373

"Having troops in Europe is a good deterrent. That's why we still have troops in South Korea and Japan."



FLIGHT JACKET

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The Chemical Biological Incident Response Force, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism), negotiates their way under a city bridge in a landing craft air cushion during an incident response simulation Aug. 11. *Photo by Cpl. Sharon E. Fox*

4th MEB unit tests Navy LCAC

Story by Cpl. Sharon E. Fox

4th MEB (AT) Combat Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Marines of the Chemical Biological Incident Response Force, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism), conducted an incident response exercise utilizing a Navy landing craft air cushion on the Potomac and Anacostia rivers here Aug. 11.

CBIRF, which is headquartered in Indian Head, Md., is located 27 miles outside the nation’s capitol.

When directed, CBIRF assists local, state, or federal agencies and Unified Combatant Commanders in the conduct of consequence management operations by providing capabilities for agent detection and identification, casualty search, rescue, decontamination, and emergency medical care and stabilization of contaminated personnel.

This amphibious exercise simulated a CBIRF response to support the National Capitol Region First Responder Community.

“The capabilities of the Navy/Marine Corps team enable CBIRF to deploy its response forces into an urban environment utilizing water routes. Deploying this far inland to the urban terrain is a first for both CBIRF and Assault Craft Unit-4,” said Maj. Frank E. Johnston, operations officer, CBIRF, 4th MEB (AT). “If our team can’t get to an emergency site by air or land, the LCAC can get us there by sea, or in this case, by river.”

The LCAC is a high-speed, fully amphibious landing craft, capable of carrying a 60-75 ton payload. It is used to transport the weapons systems, equipment, cargo and personnel of the assault elements of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force from ship to shore and across the beach, according to the Navy fact file.

LCAC’s can carry heavy payloads, such as an M-1 tank, at high speeds. The LCAC payload capability and speed combine to significantly increase the ability of a Marine Combat Ground Element to reach the shore.

Air cushion technology allows this vehicle to reach more than 70 percent of the world’s coastline, while only about 15 percent of that coastline is accessible by conventional landing craft.

“There were many doubts by civilian authorities whether the LCAC could get underneath traffic bridges over the river, but this exercise has proved that we have plenty of clearance under city bridges,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Andrew P. Seward, embark officer, CBIRF, 4th MEB (AT). “This mode of response transportation is fast and efficient and is definitely a quicker way of getting to an incident in the city, where there is usually a lot of traffic to negotiate.”

As the LCAC came ashore in the remote landing near Anacostia Park, CBIRF response teams in two to five emergency vehicles exited the craft, and quickly began their movement to a simulated incident site.

“Even through the stormy conditions as we had today, the exercise was a success,” said Johnston. “I’m more than confident that a real-life incident response will be just as successful.”

Flight Jacket; it's your paper!

Commentary by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

Editor

On an average work day there can be more than 10,000 people aboard the air station, however, only five of them are full-time *Flight Jacket* staff writers.

The job of these Marines, also known as combat correspondents, is of course to write the articles and take the photographs that make up the *Flight Jacket*. Needless to say, these five Marines cannot possibly provide coverage for every person and unit aboard the station.

This is where we need your help. Besides being a reader, you can also be a writer or photographer for the *Flight Jacket*.

Whether it is an event going on in your squadron, a Marine who is standing out amongst the rest or you simply feel like the rest of the station needs to know what your unit is up to, simply type it up and send it in.

Don't forget about pictures either. Most modern digital cameras are capable of taking high enough quality pictures to print in the paper. Scanned images from film prints will work as well, and we can even run pictures without a full length story.

The most important thing to remember about submitting information to the paper is that just because we get it does not mean we will be running it. All stories and photos, even by our staff, are put in the paper on a space available, priority basis,

and unfortunately some articles become too aged to run. Also, every submission is subject to editing for content and to coincide with Associated Press style.

Besides unit related articles, commentaries can also be submitted by anyone on base. The best thing about commentaries is that they can be written about anything you want. Agree or disagree with a new policy? Think an improvement needs to be made to the station? Seen a new movie or read a new book that you found interesting? If so, then speak up.

Commentaries are one of the best ways to share your thoughts with the air station. Unfortunately, since we have implemented a weekly commentary box into the *Flight Jacket*, we have not received one submission. That is pretty disheartening to think that out of all those 10,000 some people, not one feels strongly enough about any one subject to take 20 minutes to write about it.

Here at the Public Affairs Office we strive to put out the best paper possible. However, we cannot do it alone. This is your newspaper, for your base, for your Marine Corps. Utilize it, and help us diversify our content and create the best publication we can.

If you have a story idea or would like to submit an article, photograph or commentary, e-mail Staff Sgt. Chad McMeen, Flight Jacket internal chief, at mcmeence@miramar.usmc.mil, or call him at 577-7546.

DROP

continued from page 1

tions for Marines at Korean Village. Even at 800 feet, the cargo landed 300 meters from its target, said Pack. In Afghanistan, where air delivery is used heavily to re-supply forces in remote locations, loads have landed more than a kilometer from troops on the ground, forcing them to hike and hunt for the goods.

Drop zones are sometimes marked with colored-smoke grenades or large canvas markers. That, followed by the low-flying planes, could give away the friendly unit's location, said Bush, who's served seven years of his career in air delivery and six in reconnaissance.

With the Sherpa, however, pilots don't even need to see the ground, and can make accurate drops day or night from as high as 25,000 feet and as far as nine miles from the drop zone, said Pack. In fact, numerous Sherpas could be dropped during one pass, saving time and fuel, and each could soar to a different unit at a different location stretched over several miles.

While seemingly a godsend to Marines in Iraq, the Sherpa's capabilities are limited. One Sherpa canopy can support no more than 1,200 pounds of cargo. The Marine riggers typical pack bundles weighing 2,200 pounds.

The U.S. military is currently developing the Joint Precision Air Drop System, a family of computer-guided cargo parachutes expected to one day support 21-ton loads. However, smaller versions of the system that can support between 2,200 and 10,000 pounds aren't due to be fielded for at least another four years, said Pack.

Tasked by commanders in Iraq to find an interim solution, the Army turned to Mist Mobility Integrated Systems Technology, Inc., a small civilian company based in Ottawa, Canada. More than three months ago, their Sherpa system was identified as an acceptable fix, said Army Reserve Capt. Barton T. Brundige, 41, logistics operations officer with Multinational Corps - Iraq, who was in charge of fielding the system in Iraq.

"This is a 60-percent solution," said Pack. "It is a gap filler."

After talking with Bush, Brundige decided to outfit the platoon with the first Sherpas. Bush and three of his Marines, as well as four more air delivery Marines in California deploying to Iraq next month, traveled to Yuma, Ariz., from July 6-17 to train to use the new gear. There they learned how to plan missions using the Sherpa's software, rig the system to a bundle of cargo and repair it if necessary.

After 10 drops using the Sherpa, Bush will provide the flight data to Brundige for further analysis. If everything checks out, 1st Air Delivery Platoon should receive 18 more Sherpas.

"It's like anything else. Until you actually give it to the guy on the ground and let them use it, you don't know everything. We don't anticipate the system being a failure," said Brundige, a Los Angeles native.

Each system, which includes a body, canopy, riggings, remote control, rechargeable batteries and software, costs \$68,000, said Bush. A standard military cargo parachute runs approxi-



Dropped from a KC-130 cargo plane from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, bundles of rations parachute to the desert floor outside Camp Korean Village, Iraq, during an aerial resupply mission on Aug. 9. With the Sherpa, a commercially produced parachute system guided by the Global Positioning System that can steer itself from nearly five miles high to within 200 meters of a targeted drop point, military aircraft can drop supplies from safer altitudes. Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Lisbon

mately \$11,000.

The Aug. 9 mission marked the fifth cargo drop by Marines in western Iraq this year. During Operation Iraqi Freedom last year, Marines only dropped supplies once. It was the first drop in combat since the Vietnam War, said Bush, a native of Kailua Kona, Hawaii.

Of the 5 million pounds of cargo moved by Combat Service Support Battalion 7 since March, approximately 100,000 pounds parachuted in, said Lt. Col. Adrian W. Burke, the battalion's commander and a 42-year-old native of Deer Park, Texas.

And Burke plans to continue to air deliver supplies, both via precision and standard chutes, as one of the several methods to keep Marines equipped.

Since it is a specialized method of distribution Burke doesn't expect air delivery to replace vehicle convoys in Iraq. While dangerous, they are currently the most effective way to move supplies around the battlefield since vehicles and drivers are numerous and cargo weight is seldom a concern.

While air delivery has seen limited use by the Marines thus far in Iraq, it helps reduce the number of Marines and vehicles taking to the dangerous Iraqi highways, veins of insurgent activity but lifelines to sustain troops.

"Frankly for us, it's a combat zone," said Burke.

To reduce vehicle convoys to remote bases like Korean Village, Bush plans on equipping the second rotation of air delivery Marines with larger parachutes, albeit standard ones, and pallets capable of delivering much larger loads of rations and water. Sherpas will be incorporated into standard drops as well as used to resupply units operating remotely.

In addition, Brundige said the Army is attempting to modernize its supply distribution process throughout Iraq, and "aerial delivery is certainly a part of that."

"If we can use aerial delivery to keep soldiers and Marines off the roads, then that's a win-win for everybody," said Brundige.

Gerardi exposed: The face behind the e-mails

Story by Cpl. T.D. Smith

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Twenty years ago, a mild mannered woman sat behind a desk with an electric typewriter.

There were no computers or Internet at the Morale Welfare and Recreation offices on then Naval Air Station Miramar and it could be difficult to imagine how Linda Gerardi, Marine Corps Community Services administrative assistant, spent her day. She may have enjoyed the secrecy of her unassuming identity, but then the Marine Corps came along, took over Miramar and kicked the Internet into gear and a new level of eminence became of the Greardi e-mailer.

Gerardi is somewhat an anomaly. So how does this super messenger deal with being anonymously well known? Does she take on a secret identity to avoid letting the world know the truth about her?

She admits that the thought had not crossed her mind, but she might give it some consideration in the future. Rather, this intrepid Internet icon muses in the interesting experiences it has created for her.

“My daughter managed some apartments and a Marine was filling out an application when he noticed my daughters name was Gerardi. He said are you related to Linda Gerardi? She was surprised he knew who I was,” Gerardi said. “Sometimes people will meet me or call me and say, ‘I delete all your e-mails even before I read them’, but I take it in stride.”

Gerardi’s typical day, in addition to forwarding e-mails, includes ensuring station orders are in the right format, and serving as time keeper for several employees.

As if those duties were not enough, her phone never seems to cease ringing. Every time, she is able to pleasantly answer questions from points of contacts for the Young Marine Program to phone numbers from various buildings from memory.

With all this on her plate it may be difficult to imagine how she finds time to wade through the information to decide what should go out on base wide e-mails, but for this super-civilian employee the answer is simple.

“I only send out information concerning MCCS facilities and events. Sometimes units call up and want something such as carwashes put out on the base wide distribution, but I don’t have the authorization to do that.”

With a twenty-year tenure, Gerardi has seen a lot of changes on base she explained, “I was here when MCCS offices were in the main gym and the Great Escape was in the current MCCS offices and the current Public Affairs Office was a beauty shop. The Air Show has grown so much over the years. When I first got here the show didn’t even have bleachers.” Gerardi spoke of the changes that affected her when this base transitioned from the Navy to the

Marine Corps, “I was here when the base changed from Navy to Marine and then I stopped reviewing Navy Instructions and moved onto Marine Corps Orders.”

Sometimes electronic messages can cause ire in the recipient, but that does not mean anger should be directed toward the sender. Especially, since the true character of this particular nimble network navigator is known only by electronic contact. But maybe she prefers it that way.

Maybe it is better to just see “Gerardi” in the inbox and wonder, “who is that mass e-mailer?”



Linda Gerardi, administrative assistant, Marine Corps Community Services, sits behind the computer at her desk and types out more information to be sent to the base wide e-mail list. *Photo by Cpl. T.D. Smith*

Seven ‘Greyhawks’ become fathers while in Iraq

“By profession I am a soldier and take pride in that fact. But I am prouder, infinitely prouder, to be a father. A soldier destroys in order to build; the father only builds, never destroys...” -Gen. Douglas MacArthur

Story by Sgt. Nathan K. LaForte

MAG-16 Combat Correspondent

AL TAQADDUM, Iraq —Gen. Douglas MacArthur, former Supreme Commander of Allied Powers near the end of World War II, vocalized the realization of the stark contrast between the duties of a soldier and a father. Many men throughout history have found themselves balancing the two.

Seven Marines from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, have recently realized this disparity with the birth of their children. Seven new babies have been born to seven different fathers in the squadron since the “Greyhawks” arrived at Al Taqaddum, Iraq in February.

Capt. Aaron P. Antrim, pilot training officer and CH-46E Sea Knight pilot, said he and the other six Marines have been having mixed feelings about being new fathers and being so far away from home, but they are happy about their new children.

“It was disappointing not being there,” the 28-year-old said. “My wife and I understand the job I have and it’s something you push through.”

With the birth of Eden, April 2, Antrim



Seven Marines with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, currently in Iraq have all had to endure their deployment to Iraq while their wives have given birth to their new children. Photo by Sgt. Nathan K. LaForte

and his wife Rachel now have two boys, Eden, the newborn, and Asher, their oldest.

Fellow fathers in the squadron shared Antrim’s feeling of disappointment, noted Cpl. Robert S. Phillips, embarkation

chief.

“It was scary not being there,” the Montgomery, Ala., native said. “It was the only birth I’ve missed. (My wife) did have a lot of support back home, but it was still rough not being there.”

With the June 26 addition of Alec Owen Hyde to the Phillips clan, the 26-year-old Marine corporal and his wife Carolyn now have four children. Their other children are Elisse Marin, 6; Anna Nicole, 4; and Robert Scott Jr., 2. Phillips joked that his youngest son “is the last one, so he gets all the leftover names.”

The support the CH-46E Sea Knight squadron has given the globe-trotting fathers in their time of worry has been second to none, claimed Cpl. Scott J. Hardegree, aircrew training manager.

“The day she went in the hospital, the (executive officer) came and told me she was in labor,” the 26-year-old Carrollton, Ga., native explained. “He gave me a satellite phone and the hospital number and told me to use it as much as I needed. It made it a whole lot easier.”

“If I didn’t have these guys and know them so well, it would’ve been much harder,” the young corporal added. “The squadron is good about supporting its people.”

Hardegree and his wife, April, welcomed their youngest of two daughters, Cady, into their family April 20. Their oldest daughter is named Mikayla.

The support the squadron gives the Marines is good, but the support provided to their families has made the difference since the “Greyhawks” departure in February, according to 1st Lt. Steve M. Clifton, adjutant and pilot. This support net stateside has been headed up by the squadron’s Key Volunteers Network.

“I knew she was in labor, but the KVN called the duty and they called here when she was actually giving birth,” he said of his wife, Sherry Marie. “It helped a lot. (The KVN) helps to pass e-mails and keep us updated. The family can’t do

much (to keep in contact with us) because they are with our wives, so they can give a simple call.”

“One of the (commanding officer’s) big points before we left is to take care of the families so we can concentrate on what we’re doing over here,” the 32-year-old Dekalb, Ill., native added. “It makes everything safer.”

Clifton’s wife gave birth to Abigail Marie June 30, who is their only child.

Antrim agreed with Clifton about the strength derived from the KVN.

“Without the KVN, you won’t have the support network that the wives need,” he claimed. “It’s easier having that so they can push information back here and get it in the United States.”

“It shows the caring level,” he added. “They go out of the way to provide for the family members of the squadron. I think a strong (spouses) network directly correlates to a strong squadron, especially on deployment.”

The “Greyhawks” other new additions include Dana C. Hall III, the fourth child born May 21 to Sgt. Dana C. Hall, individual material readiness list manager, and his wife, Deanna; Ava Mae Kull, the second child born June 14 to Capt. Timothy A. Kull, assistant S-1 officer, and wife, Stephanie; and Kalaura Mae Moore, the second daughter born April 26 to Lance Cpl. Stanley O. Moore, maintenance administration clerk, and his wife, Mikita.

With the great distance between the new babies and their warrior fathers, some of the fathers have expressed disappointment at not seeing their new child, but also admiration for the wives who have gone through so much, Clifton said.

“She is going through the pregnancy herself,” he said. “When no one is there she’s got to deal with it by herself. She’s a trooper.”

The distance is hard for both parties,

New leaders mean fresh direction for band

3rd MAW Band receives new director, bandmaster, prepares for upcoming deployment to Iraq

Story by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

In musical terminology, the term presto is defined as rapid and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band has been moving at a presto pace ever since two new dedicated leaders stepped in. In fact, the band is gearing up for Iraq this month.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas P. Mangan walked in as the director and officer-in-charge of the band, while Master Gun-nery Sgt. Luis Arce assumed the bandmaster position.

The band is going nowhere but forward as both Mangan and Arce want to take this band to the top, explained Cpl. Marisa N. Conright, 3rd MAW Band euphonium player. Both leaders want to increase the band's operational tempo for the better.

"As soon as they got into command, everything has been 10 times better and faster," continued the Grand Rapids, Mi., native.

Mangan, a North Huntingdon, Pa., native, is the principal conductor of the band and is responsible for all the musicians, and has final say on requests regarding the band. In addition to his musical obligations, Mangan is the band's platoon commander for any military mission.

Sgt. Bethany K. Koshuta, 3rd MAW Band French horn player, said Mangan does his job very well.

"He does his best at keeping us informed of what's going on," continued the Bradford, Ma., native.

Arce, a Chicago native, also ensures that all of the Marines are taken care of while mentoring the small ensemble leaders, drum major and enlisted conductor of the band. He is also the band's coordinator for all military and civilian requests.

"He likes a lot of intensity and is also very direct and upfront with us. He allows direct comments and input from us," mentioned Cpl. William H. Watson, 3rd MAW Band trombone player.

what it's going to accomplish in the future. I think they're both really goal oriented."

Arce said he wants the band's retention rates to increase with the quality of Marines in the band. He also wants the proficiency of the band to be better than exceptional. In addition, he wants well-trained Marines who are ready for any mission, music or combat.

"We're working that short-term plan and looking at the long-term rewards. There's nothing stopping this

Watson, a Rochester, N.Y., native, said he knows what he wants out of the band and that he and his new counterpart will work together to accomplish it.

"Our main mission is to go out in the public and foster our relationship toward the community as well as support the Marines here in various functions," said Arce. "We're getting out there to the schools and other venues and recruiting not only musicians, but Marines."

Since Mangan and Arce arrived, Cpl. Samuel A. Jacobs, 3rd MAW Band saxophone player, said the band has been doing more performances and getting out in the community more.

"The two of them work well together. They work as a team," explained Jacobs, a Middleburg, Pa., native. "They explain why we are doing what we are doing now and



The 3rd MAW Band plays during a pass and review under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas P. Mangan at a Commander of Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area change of command ceremony. Photo by Cpl. Jeff Zaccaro

See **BAND**, page 10

Tales of a traveling Marine

The adventures of Lewis Mobley, gunnery sergeant of Marines

Story by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Through the jungles of Kenya and the depths of Rwanda, Gunnery Sgt. Lewis W. Mobley has seen it all.

From being spied on in hotels to dodging bombs and saving lives, the Pueblo, Colo., native has lived to tell the tale of his adventures.

“He has been around and done it all,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 George Vangelas, fiscal officer-in-charge, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352. “He is probably the best and most experienced loadmaster we have because of his wealth of experience. There is very little that we do that he hasn’t seen or been part of.”

In high school, the future traveler had no clue that he would take on some of the most vital missions in the Marine Corps.

The journey started at 18 years of age when he stood on the legendary yellow footprints to launch his training.

“I joined out of patriotism. I always wanted to be in the military,” explained Mobley. “One of my childhood friends was always talking about the Marines, and he had influenced me to sign up.”

Mobley spent his first enlistment in the Marine Corps as a nuclear, biological and chemical specialist with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, in Hawaii.

After his four years, Mobley joined the Air Force Reserve for two years where he became a loadmaster. After a year and a half of flying, Mobley re-joined the Marine Corps.

“When I went back into the Corps, I became the first Marine to go through the entire loadmaster program in the Air Force,” stated Mobley, currently an air traffic control officer, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. “Now Marines are sent to Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas first to get their C-130 training.”

Though he was stationed with VMGR-352 in El Toro, Mobley traveled to some exotic and treacherous locations in his career.

He deployed to Africa from El Toro, where he participated in Operation Restore Hope, helping to transport dead bodies. He was also responsible for obtaining fuel for the helicopters in Kenya.

“Then we headed over to Yemen, the number one hot spot for terrorist attacks. The hotel we stayed at was bombed the day after we left,” explained Mobley.

A terrorist with a suitcase bomb killed a victim underneath Mobley’s hotel balcony. He witnessed pieces of the body all over the parking lot.

“I kept noticing strange things like people watching us on balconies, getting asked a lot of questions in bars



Gunnery Sgt. Lewis W. Mobley, air traffic control officer, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, reflects back on his adventurous career when he saved lives and risked his own life, while transporting fuel for his squadron, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352. Photo by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

and everything else that the Marine Corps Institute courses teach you,” explained Mobley.

Mobley was then off to Rwanda to save lives in Operation Distant Runner during the genocides that killed over one million people.

Marines evacuated approximately 300 Americans and other natives during the operation.

“We provided security in a noncombatant evacuation. Our mission was making sure that the Americans got out alive.”

Not only does Mobley ensure the

safety of civilians, he also makes certain that his Marines are taken care of.

“He would definitely put his life on the line for his Marines,” said Staff Sgt. Mark Curreri, loadmaster, VMGR-352. “He’s a great Marine who is mission oriented.”

Mobley has accomplished many missions throughout his travels and may have many more, as he plans on retiring in the Marine Corps.

“I feel enlightened from all of my experiences,” explained Mobley. “These missions are just part of my job and being a Marine.”

Islam: a peaceful religion at the core



A Marine and Sailor of Islamic faith pray alongside each other in an overseas Navy chapel. Photo by Sgt. Joe Lindsay

Story by Sgt. Kristen L. Tull

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Religion is a powerful subject. Many have strong opinions while others chose to avoid even the knowledge of such. The strength and determination religion brings to those who believe can be seen throughout the world in an array of forms from good faith to assassination.

In Iraq, the war is brutal and said to be a holy war amongst Muslims. Of course, 95 percent of the population in Iraq is indeed Muslim. But, 80 percent of all Muslims are not Arabs. There are more found in Indonesia, a large minority in China and about five million right here in the United States.

A Muslim is a person who submits to

the will of Allah. To a Muslim, Allah is the only divine and worshipful being. They believe he is the God for all Christians, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists and even atheists.

Islam, with the root word meaning peace, is the actual submission process and has five pillars.

The first two are the commitment to Allah and ritual prayer that must be performed a specific way and at certain times of the day.

Third is what is known to Muslims as Alms. It’s when

Muslims must contribute to the support of those less fortunate. This is usually done during their holy month of Ramadan.

Also during Ramadan, adult Muslims in good health can’t eat, drink, smoke or have sex from sunrise until sunset all month.

Last but not least in the five pillars is the pilgrimage. It’s called Al-Hajj and encompasses a trek to Mecca in Saudi Arabia at least once in a persons lifetime. It commemorates the faith and sacrifices of Abraham and his family.

As with many other religions, Muslims believe in prophets. One prophet in particular is believed by them to be the last and most important of all - Muhammad.

According to Muslims, Muhammad received revelation from the Angel Gabriel for 23 years. He relayed this word through a book known as the Qur’an. These teachings

are what Islamic laws are based upon.

When Muhammad died at the age of 63, mass confusion set in. Who was to succeed him as the leader of Islam? Two major groups had vastly different opinions. They were and still are known as the Sunni’s and the Shi’ites.

The Shi’ites believed it should be Ali, a relative of Muhammad and the first person to accept Islam, while the Sunni’s believe Muhammad didn’t choose a specific successor and felt they were left to find their own leader.

Both groups chose separate leaders, and so it began.

The Sunnis were the minority of the country but strong enough to hold most of the power before and during Saddam Hussein’s regime.

Hussein and his top deputies are all Sunni Muslims. The Sunni’s also held all of the top posts in Iraqi security forces.

The Shi’ites made up the majority of the country and suffered much discrimination during Hussein’s regime. Most of them live in the south, which is the most depressed part of Iraq.

Jihad, meaning struggle in Arabic, is allowed when fighting for religion and in self-defense. So, there it is, a holy war where each party truly believes they are right according to a religion passed down from generation to generation.

A non-discriminatory religion of peace, torn by power, under one God, known to Muslims as Allah.

M4A1 delivers flexible firepower to Marines

Story by Cpl. Paul Leicht

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Since the Civil War, U.S. military forces have been using an increasingly wide variety of combat firearms and weapon systems.

Today's changing face of American war and the global war on terrorism have inspired the military to adapt its tactics, affecting the distribution of firearms to troops, including Marines serving in the Operating Forces. The effect has resulted in a trend to equip special operators, security forces and noninfantry servicemembers with a more handy, versatile and compact weapon without sacrificing firepower.

Replacing some M9 service pistols, submachine guns and larger service rifles, the M4A1 is produced for the U.S. government by Colt Defense Weapon Systems, makers of the venerable and ubiquitous M16 family of assault rifles.

Although currently only available in small numbers to Marines, the M4A1—the carbine version of 'America's assault rifle'—serves alongside 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Marines here at Miramar and more notably in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Our unit has approximately four (M4A1s) and they are issued to Marines serving on security detail for the (commanding general)," said Lance Cpl. Samuel Beglau, armory technician, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3. "Right now the weapons are in Iraq with deployed Marines and for them the (M4A1) is a great advantage because of its compact size as they often need to move quickly in tight quarters. The carbine also allows them to better maneuver while being able to deliver a lot of firepower which is sometimes hard to do with just a pistol or even some submachine guns. So far, everyone who has used the weapon has been satisfied with its usefulness despite the decreased muzzle velocity due to the slightly shorter barrel length common to carbines."

The Lodei, Calif., native added that some Marines with MWHS-3 may see some of the improved, fourth generation versions of the M16-A2 service rifle—the highly modifiable M16-A4—but they have not been sent any at this time.

Firing 5.56 mm NATO ammunition like the M16, the M4A1 can also be found here in the hands of select Marines with Miramar's Provost Marshal's Office.

"The M4A1 is typically used by our Special Reaction Teams who, like their civilian law enforcement counterparts (S.W.A.T.), really enjoy the versatility of modified (M4A1s)," explained Lance Cpl. Dennison Watchman, armorer, PMO. "Depending on the situation, (the M4A1) can support a variety of modifications like the larger M16-A4. It has a rail-mounted forward handgrip, a telescopic stock, a removable carrying handle and rail mounts for night vision sights, combat optics, red-dot laser sights, flashlights or other add-ons—even the M203 grenade launcher. The trigger unit is also modified to fire full-auto rather than three-round bursts."



The M4A1 carbine's handguards, shown above, have rail mounts that allow the weapon to have a variety of attachments, including a vertical forward handgrip, flashlight or night vision equipment. *Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht*

The Ganado, Ariz., native added that PMO's 10-man team also benefits from the carbine's larger magazine capacity compared to that of a pistol. The SRT often performs duties above and beyond that of an average military policeman, dealing with anything from hostage situations, search and rescue, barricaded suspects or even felony arrests. The shorter M4A1 lends itself to room clearing and close quarter battle.

In contrast to the Marines, the U.S. Army has issued the M4A1 carbine in greater numbers to its soldiers, especially those in Iraq who have benefited from the weapon's reduced size.

"The biggest strength of the M4A1 is definitely its compactness," said Lance Cpl. Jason Lahmann, armorer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, and native of San Diego. "The Army has more (M4A1s) than the Marines, and a lot of Marines with the (air combat element) would also benefit from having a carbine while deployed."

Although the Army has announced plans to adopt and field a radically new battle rifle designed by the German firearms firm Heckler and Koch—the flexible XM8 Lightweight Modular Weapon System—the Marines have decided to stick with the M4A1 and the M16-A4 following a decision made by former Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James L. Jones, in August of 2002.

To accommodate the varied combat requirements of all Marines, the M4A1 will continue to be issued to specialized Marines in place of the M9 service pistol, but the more numerous noninfantry Marines may eventually see the day when the M4A1 or a similar carbine is their



The most notable difference between the M4A1 and its M16 cousin is the telescopic stock, as shown here by Lance Cpl. Dennison Watchman, an armorer with the Provost Marshal's Office. *Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht*

standard weapon in the field, said Lt. Col. Michael J. Mulligan, infantry weapons system director, Marine Corps Systems Command.

"After a comparison of the M4A1 carbine and the M16-A4 one can easily see the versatility of each weapon," said Gunnery Sgt. Douglas B. Schaefer, School of Infantry instructor, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., in his recent award-winning essay 'Does the Marine Corps Need to Replace the M16-A2?' "The M4A1 and the M16A4 are simply a better fit than the current M16-A2 service rifle for the way the Marines will be fighting in the future."

Marines walk, run for drug-free Corps

Story by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Approximately 600 Marines, Sailors, civilians and other personnel aboard the air station took part in the 101 Days of Summer Challenge 5K Drug Free Run Walk Aug. 11 here. Units and individuals took off for the noncompetitive event at 6:30 a.m. in front of the Miramar Sports Complex to support the fight against drug and alcohol abuse.

According to Lynn Sanchez, Marine Corps Community Services health promotion director, the run walk took approximately two months of work to coordinate, advertise and round up sponsors. The event is one of two runs that MCCS supports each year.

“This event is geared toward the active duty members here to raise the awareness of illegal substance abuse,” said Sanchez. “Fitness and readiness are top priorities in the Marines and keeping drugs out of the equation is all part of that readiness.”

Groups from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Aircraft Group 46, Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 and Marine Aircraft Group 16 all came out to compete in the run.

After the run, participants had a chance to visit some of the sponsors. The commissary brought fruit to fill empty

stomachs, energy drinks were provided and a local radio station endowed runners and walkers with tunes.

“I think events like these bring the base closer,” said Sgt. Tishiro L. Walker, administrative clerk, H&HS. “It’s more than one unit coming together to have some fun and unofficial and friendly competition.”

Though the run was not timed, each unit tried to run faster, sing cadence louder and show more pride than the other squadrons.

After the run, Lt. Col. Lawrence Oliver, commanding officer, H&HS, told his squadron that he sped up toward the finish line because he did not want VMFAT-101 to pass them up.

A guidon challenge between the units also added to the fun. Incentive cash prizes and points were awarded to the top three squadrons with the best drug and alcohol prevention message on their guidon. Each squadron received points for the percentage of the unit that participated in the run.

“MALS-11 and VMFAT-101 are neck and neck in the 101 Days of Summer Challenge, and this event can really make a difference in the outcome of the final scores,” explained Sanchez, a Berea, Ohio, native.

The next and last 101 Days of Summer event will take place today and is a 12 hour spin, run and swim relay fitness challenge.



Five units and other individuals aboard the air station took part in the 101 Days of Summer Challenge 5K Drug Free Run Walk Aug. 11. There will be one more 101 Days of Summer event before the units’ scores are added up. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones.*



Welcome home Marines!

More than 180 Marines with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing assemble on Miramar’s flightline in front of Hangar 4 Aug. 17 after returning home from deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. *Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht*

FATHERS

continued from page 6

Hardegree echoed.

“I don’t know if you can compare being here in combat or being home with your spouse in combat and not knowing,” he explained. “I know it’s hard. She takes care of the kids, pays the bills and took over the role of the head of the household. I’m very proud of her.”

With the “Greyhawks” tour of duty in Iraq coming to an end soon, emotions are

running hot for the proud fathers of the squadron. Their emotions and desires are summed up in the heartfelt words of Phillips.

“I’m doing fine and I’ll be home soon,” Phillips said, more to his wife than anyone else. “You’ve done a great job and you raised the kids in my absence.

“You were able to step up and be a single parent by circumstance and not complain,” he added. “I am so proud of you.”

BAND

continued from page 8

band,” stated Arce. “I try to motivate them. We have a mission to accomplish here to support the Marines, and we’re getting pride and patriotism back to the community.”

Like Arce, Mangan has ambitions of his own. He wants to take a more active role with the schools. He also desires putting strong emphasis on community relations. He wants to reassure people that the Marines are doing a great job here, and overseas. Within the band, Mangan plans to continuously raise the bar in every aspect to include music, marching and maneuvering.

Mangan explained he wants to implement some changes, but maintain the closeness of this band. “The band has strong morale and unit cohesion and that makes my job easier.”

Not only do Mangan and Arce work fittingly together, they also work well

with the Marines. When the band trains, every Marine gets out there.

“Recently we went through military police training, and everyone participated,” mentioned Arce. “Troops need to see their senior guys suffering too.”

The term “lento” means slow, but ever since Mangan and Arce arrived, the band might only play parts of their music at a lento pace.

“We’re looking forward to a busy year, but a very rewarding one,” concluded Mangan.

The band will undoubtedly have an eventful year ahead of them in Iraq. Five band members headed over to the sand July 29 to provide base security and the rest of the band will follow suit Aug. 20.

“I’m motivated and ready to go,” said Cpl. Melissa Ensling, French horn player, 3rd MAW band. “Marines are riflemen first and our primary mission over there is to fight so we don’t have another September 11th.”

Miramar Movies

The Station Auditorium is located in building 2242 and will be featuring the following movies free of charge. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information contact 577-4143 or log on to www.mccsmiramar.com.

Today:
4:30 p.m. Anchorman (PG-13)
6:30 p.m. Spiderman 2 (PG-13)
9 p.m. King Arthur (PG-13)

Saturday:
1 p.m. Sleepover (PG)
6:30 p.m. Anchorman (PG-13)
9 p.m. Spiderman 2 (PG-13)

Sunday:
1 p.m. Two Brothers (PG)
6:30 p.m White Chicks (PG-13)

Wednesday:
6:30 p.m. I, Robot (PG-13)

Thursday:
2 p.m. Cinderella Story (PG)
6:30 p.m. King Arthur (PG-13)

Presentations and time subject to change.

Post-deloyment meeting

A seminar titled “Heroes & Healthy Families” will be held at the South Mesa Club on Camp Pendleton Sept. 10 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The seminar will focus on military post-deployment healthy family issues and will be presented by Vice Adm. Richard Carmona, United States surgeon general.

Miramar is allotted 300 seats. To register call 577-6585.

Religious Services

The Chaplain’s Office is located in building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities contact the Chaplain’s Office at 577-1333.

Sunday:
9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist

Wednesday:
7 p.m. Baptist service

Monday-Friday:
11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic Daily Mass

Jewish:
7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

Fall budget week

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society will host Back 2 School Budget Week this Monday through Friday.

Participants should bring a copy of a current leave and earning statement as well as a valid ID. To schedule an appointment or get more information call 577-1807.

Polls open

Presidential election polls will open Nov. 2 across the nation. In order to vote, you must be registered.

Whether deployed or abroad, servicemembers submit a federal post card application by Sept. 15 to register.

For more information consult your unit voting assistance officer or ALMAR 044/04.

Tuition Assistance

Tuition Assistance for fiscal year 2004 provides 100-percent tuition funding of tuition for voluntary off-duty education up to \$4,500 per year and \$250 per credit for Marines.

For more information contact the Education Office at 577-1801.

Air Show tickets

Tickets for the Miramar Air Show go on sale Monday and end Oct. 1.

Military ID card holders may purchase their tickets at the Entertainment Ticket Office ranging from \$8-\$70 for adults and \$3-\$50 for children ages 3-11.

For more information visit the official site at www.miramarairshow.com.

Impounded Vehicles

The following vehicles have been impounded and need to be claimed by the owners. Towing fees average \$113, storage fees \$28 daily. For more information contact the Provost Marshal’s Office at 577-1461.

| Vehicle: | License: | Date: | Stored at: |
|-------------------------|------------|---------|-----------------|
| Green 1995 Dodge Neon | CA/3KGZ374 | Jul. 7 | Eastgate Towing |
| Blue 1989 Subaru GL | CA/1REE135 | Jul. 16 | Eastgate Towing |
| Red Honda Prelude | NONE | Jul. 16 | Eastgate Towing |
| Red Sea King Boat | NONE | Jul. 22 | Eastgate Towing |
| White Hydra Sports Boat | FL/CZ639M | Jul. 22 | Eastgate Towing |
| Black VW Jetta | NONE | Jul. 27 | Eastgate Towing |